GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2637
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
PRESERVATION OF MINOR LANGUAGES
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100 languages in India are spoken by less than 10,000 people each;

(b) if so, whether these languages are on the verge of extinction as the younger generations from these linguistic traditions join the mainstream as reported in the Hindu dated October 17, 2007;

(c) if so, whether there is an urgent need to salvage the minor languages from extinction;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to prepare a scheme to preserve the minor languages from extinction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) As per information compiled by Registrar General of India (Ministry of Home Affairs), from 2001 Census, there are 264 languages in India which are spoken by less than 10,000 people each.

(b) to (e) The future of these languages is threatened due to limited number o f speakers. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has, therefore, initiated steps to formulate a new scheme for Preservation and Development of Languages not covered by 8th Schedule (Bharat Bhasha Vikas Yojana). The scheme is based on the recommendations of Working Group on Languages and Book Promotion under XIth Plan set up by Planning Commission.